

### REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to recite the priority claim from corresponding International Application No. PCT/US99/20046 filed August 31, 1999, which claims the benefit of priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/098,993 filed September 1, 1998. No new matter is added. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

If any minor matters remain to be discussed prior to examination, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Marked-up Version of Amended Specification  
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)-(c)**

**In the specification:**

On page 1, line 5, please delete the following paragraph:

[This case claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/098,993, filed September 1, 1998, the contents of which are incorporated by reference.]

Please add the following new paragraph therefor:

This application is a § 371 U.S. national stage of PCT US99/20046 filed August 31, 1999, which was published in English under PCT Article 21(2), which in turn claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application 60/098,993 filed September 1, 1998, which is incorporated herein by reference.